

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A mobile instant messaging device for communicating instant messages with a plurality of instant message services, comprising:

a user interface for displaying a plurality service-specific icons, each service-specific icon providing an identification of one of the instant message services;

a plurality of configuration data files, each configuration data file being associated with one of the service-specific icons;

a common instant messaging application; and

a processor for configuring and executing the common instant messaging application;

wherein upon selecting one of the service-specific icons, the common instant messaging application is configured for use as a service-specific instant messaging application using the associated configuration data file;

wherein the user interface is a user interface ribbon; and

wherein the user interface ribbon is a one or two dimensional graphical set of icons, including the plurality of service-specific icons.

2. (Previously Presented) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 1, further comprising:

a database coupled to the common instant messaging application for storing instant messaging data for each of the plurality of instant messaging services.

3. (Original) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 1, further comprising:

a wireless interface for communicating instant messages to a wireless data network.

4. (Original) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 1, further comprising:

a display for displaying the user interface.

5. (Original) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 1, further comprising:

a keyboard for entering instant messaging text into the mobile instant messaging device.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously Presented) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 1, wherein the identification of one of the instant messaging services is a textual identification.

9. (Previously Presented) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 1, wherein the identification of one of the instant messaging services is a graphical identification.

10. (Previously Presented) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of service-specific icons is configured to display instant messaging information to a user of the mobile instant messaging device.

11. (Previously Presented) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 10, wherein the instant messaging information includes current presence information for the user with respect to the instant messaging service identified by the community specific icon.

12. (Original) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 10, wherein the instant messaging information includes a value indicating a number of received messages.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 1, wherein the configuration data file includes information which configures the functionality and appearance of the common instant messaging application so that it functions and appears like a service-specific instant messaging application.

15. (Previously Presented) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 1, wherein the common instant messaging application monitors a trigger event for at least one of the instant messaging services and upon detecting the trigger event, causes the user interface to display the service-specific icon for that instant messaging service.

16. (Previously Presented) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 15, wherein the trigger event is at least one of: (1) receiving an invitation to chat; (2) receiving a service book record that identifies a particular service accessible through one of the instant messaging services; (3)

entering of a secret code into the device; (4) activation of a download file; (5) clicking on a link in a browser; or (6) receiving an email with a control code for activating a particular service.

17. (Original) The mobile instant messaging device of claim 1, wherein the community-specific icons, the configuration data files, and the common instant messaging application are stored in a Flash memory device within the mobile instant messaging device.

18. (Currently Amended) A multi-community instant messaging system, comprising:

a plurality of instant messaging services;

a network; and

at least one mobile instant messaging device, the mobile instant messaging device comprising: a user interface for displaying a plurality of service-specific icons, each service-specific icon providing an identification of one of the instant message services; a plurality of configuration data files, each configuration data file being associated with one of the service-specific icons; and a common instant messaging application;

wherein upon selecting one of the service-specific icons, the common instant messaging application is configured for use as a service-specific instant messaging application using the associated configuration data file, and may communicate instant messages over the network to the selected instant messaging service;

wherein the user interface is a user interface ribbon; and

wherein the user interface ribbon is a one or two dimensional graphical set of icons, including the plurality of service-specific icons.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of instant messaging in a mobile communication device, comprising the steps of:

displaying a plurality service-specific icons on a user interface of the device, each service-specific icon providing an identification of one of a plurality of instant message services;

storing a plurality of configuration data files, each configuration data file being associated with one of the service-specific icons;

selecting one of the service-specific icons; and

in response to the selecting step, configuring a common instant messaging application for use as a service-specific instant messaging application using the associated configuration data file;

wherein the user interface is a user interface ribbon; and

wherein the user interface ribbon is a one or two dimensional graphical set of icons, including the plurality of service-specific icons.

20. (Cancelled)